

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
7/27/08 – 8/9/08

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter checked a boat on a local lake and found the boat occupants to be in possession of four short walleyes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon is conducting a follow up investigation to a road killed wolf in Gogebic County.

COs Dennis Gast and Matt Eberly conducted a group ORV patrol in the Keweenaw Point area to address illegal activity on the Lake Superior shoreline.

CO Dennis Gast contacted a boat that was taking on water on a local lake. A further check revealed the boat to be unregistered, without personal flotation devices (PFDs) and the operator was in possession of a short bass. Assistance was rendered and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho reported high ORV activity on the Norway Truck Trail. No illegal activity was found, with numerous ORVs contacted.

CO Matt Eberly responded to a complaint of a subject shooting at geese. The home owner was trying to keep the geese out of his yard. CO Eberly educated the home owner on a different approach to keeping geese out of his yard.

CO Jason Wicklund attempted to contact three ORVs, one of which was riding double. Upon seeing the CO, the lead ORV signaled to the rest of the party to turn around. The CO was able

to stop one of the ORVs and obtain the identity of the other two operators. Both operators were contacted and interviewed. The lead ORV operator ran from CO Wicklund because he hadn't bought an ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a dead wolf complaint near Watson. The animal was located in a remote area on state land and recovered. There is no foul play suspected at this time. A forensic exam is pending.

COs Doug Hermanson, Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) with a search for a missing person/possible drowning victim in Ontonagon County. The MSP Dive team was able to locate and recover the body the next day.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to a complaint of an individual chasing waterfowl with a Personal Watercraft (PWC). The COs located the responsible party who admitted to chasing the birds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman was working an area of state land in eastern Marquette County when he observed a set of fresh tracks going into a dead end two-track road. Further investigation revealed three subjects with two pickup trucks who were observed unloading a pile of shingles. When finished with this task, they began cutting down live maple trees and loading the trucks with firewood. Contact was made and tickets were issued for littering and unlawful removal of forest products.

DISTRICT 2

COs Jerry Fitzgibbon and John Wenzel responded to a complaint on an inland trout lake of over limits and undersized Rainbow Trout being caught and kept. Two subjects were located and

found to be in possession of eight undersized rainbows. Tickets were issued to both.

CO Reid Roeske contacted the driver of a vehicle with a trailer full of scrap tires. During the investigation it was found the subject was not licensed as a scrap tire hauler and his driver's license was also suspended. The case was turned over to the MSP.

Sgt. Darryl Shann responded to a trespass situation and located two groups of violators on the same stretch of river. The first group of two had in possession 41 brook trout. The second group of eight did not have an over limit, but did possess 30 brook trout. All were ticketed for trespass, and some were also cited for over limit and fishing without a license violations.

Action was taken when CO Mike Hammill contacted an angler in eastern Chippewa County. The subject had no fishing license and was wanted on an arrest warrant from the Detroit area.

CO Mike Hammill took action on two subjects who were operating ORVs down a Luce County road without helmets. CO Hammill was traveling east along a county road and observed two ORVs coming toward him. As they approached and realized who he was, one of the ORVs left the road and came back out as the CO was stopping the other. A brief investigation revealed that the subject who left the road had hidden a 45-caliber colt pistol near a tree stump. The subject did not have a license to carry a concealed pistol.

CO Derek Miller was the only enforcement officer in a remote area of east Alger County when a 911 call came in of a domestic assault. The victim had left the camping site before CO Miller arrived but he stopped her on the highway. She was suffering from a broken nose and a broken arm. CO Miller administered first aid and called for an ambulance. When the ambulance

arrived, she refused medical treatment, but she was later taken into protective custody by MSP when a large amount of marijuana was found in the car. The male subject was apprehended and transported to the Alger County jail after a search of the local camping areas.

CO Kyle Publiski ticketed a subject who has been camping near Bay City Lake over the past couple of years. Every year this camper would leave large amounts of trash on the site.

CO Kyle Publiski was sent to a reported wolf hit by a car on I-75. When CO Publiski arrived with the MSP, the wolf turned out to be a large porcupine.

DISTRICT 3

COs Michael Feagan and Eric Bottorff assisted the Cheboygan County Sheriff dive team with removing a large log stuck vertically in the bottom of Burt Lake, and only a few inches under the water surface, creating a dangerous navigational hazard. The divers cut a portion of the submerged log, and the COs then pulled it out with their patrol boat, towing it to shore.

While off duty, CO Michael Feagan observed two PWCs operating in a buoyed swim area. The PWC operators were advised by another member of their party not to enter the swim area, but did so twice, stating they were cold and didn't want to go around it. CO Feagan obtained descriptions and MC numbers, went home, got in uniform and returned to the beach. The PWC operators were located and stated they never entered the swim area. After advising them, they were observed by an off duty CO, and both accepted their tickets.

CO Eric Bottorff obtained warrants for two subjects who stole cedar off state land. Arrest warrants for two counts of removal of forest products and conspiracy were issued.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to a state forest campground complaint of excessive noise, too many people on a site, etc. CO Bottorff contacted the subjects, issued a ticket and quieted the rowdy campers down.

CO Michael Feagan responded to an injured bald eagle complaint on I-75. The “eagle” turned out to be a blue heron.

CO Richard Stowe stopped to assist a moped rider on the side of the highway. The subject was over fifty miles from home and had a broken throttle cable. CO Stowe used a split-shot sinker he had in his patrol truck to repair the cable and sent the moped rider on his way.

CO Kelly Ross found a large number of cans and broken bottles, along with an abandoned vehicle where a large party had occurred on state land. CO Ross located the owner of the vehicle and a ticket for littering was issued.

While patrolling state land, CO William Webster found a fawn that had fallen into a hole in a rock quarry. CO Webster extricated the scared, but unharmed deer and returned it to the nearby woods.

While patrolling Fletchers Floodwaters, CO Joe Molnar contacted a boat of anglers in possession of undersized bass. When they opened the live well, one angler quickly grabbed a short bass and threw it overboard; however, there was another undersized bass still in the live well. Tickets were issued for the undersized bass.

CO Joe Molnar assisted several other agencies in searching for two anglers on Fletchers Floodwaters who were overdue. The

search and rescue operation began at 11:00 p.m. CO Molnar, using his patrol boat, located debris that was possibly from the anglers' boat. At approximately 2:00 a.m., CO Molnar called the U. S. Coast Guard helicopter to the area and the anglers were found a short time later, clinging to their capsized boat. They were removed from the water and treated, both recovering and were released at the scene.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall responded to a wildfire in northern Emmet County. The fire spread to a neighboring residence where the flames surrounded a full propane tank. The fire was extinguished without further incident and the subject responsible ticketed for allowing a fire to escape.

CO Carl Vanderwall responded to a dead five foot sturgeon that had washed up on the beach on Lake Michigan. The fish had been dead for some time, and foul play is not suspected.

CO Duane Budreau followed up on a complaint where a subject had been camping on state land and had a lot of litter at his campsite. CO Budreau contacted the camper and ticketed him for camping in one location for more than 15 days.

DISTRICT 4

CO Carla Soper was on Hamlin Lake when she encountered a man and two women fishing from a boat. The male angler handed her his license and an additional license he said was for his daughter. CO Soper noticed that the license indicated that the man would have been two years old at the time of his daughter's birth. When asked, the subject admitted that he was trying to pass off his wife's fishing license as his daughter's.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling near Ludington State Park when he received a call from park rangers for assistance with two

intoxicated persons in the park. The subjects had rented a boat and had somehow lost the boat motor in the lake. Prior to CO Brosky's arrival, the male subject left the scene and fled the area. The female half of the intoxicated duo had just gotten out of jail, was in violation of her parole conditions, and had petitioned for a personal protection order against the male that had been with her. She was arrested and lodged with a blood alcohol content of 0.120. The male subject was not located and had recently been sentenced to serve a prison sentence.

CO Justin Vanderlinde checked four subjects ranging in age from 18-21 years of age fishing in Benzie County. The subjects were all fishing without licenses and were in possession of seven undersized bass. The subjects were all ticketed for the fishing violations. These same subjects had been camping in the area the weekend before and had failed to completely put out a campfire when they left.

CO Jair Kollasch responded to a complaint from a homeowner on Stoneledge Lake regarding PWCs and boats being operated within 100 ft of docks. CO Kollasch met with the complainant and while they were talking, a PWC came by within 100 ft, and the operator was not wearing a life jacket. The complainant told the CO to use his boat, and upon contacting the operator of the PWC, it was also determined that the registration was expired and the PWC was being operated without a fire extinguisher on board. The subject was ticketed for failing to wear a life jacket. CO Kollasch also contacted two subjects fishing in a nearby boat, and determined that they both were fishing without licenses and their watercraft registration was also expired. Again enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Rademacher was patrolling on the Muskegon River in Newaygo County when he observed a young subject passed out on the shore. No other tubers claimed to know anything about the

17 year old, who was intoxicated. CO Mike Wells met CO Rademacher at an access site with the revived young subject. Interviews with others at the site revealed that the individual did have some "friends" nearby who were also under aged drinkers. With the assistance of the Newaygo County Sheriff's Department, medical needs were assessed, MIP tickets were issued, and sober drivers located.

CO Justin Vanderlinde received a complaint of two subjects on PWCs harassing a loon on Long Lake in Grand Traverse County. The CO contacted the subjects, who turned out to be juveniles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski contacted a subject in Wexford County who was baiting bear behind his residence but claimed that he was feeding raccoons. The subject was ticketed for baiting for bear prior to the lawful date.

CO Sam Koscinski assisted the Manistee County Sheriff's Department with a domestic violence complaint. The subject had gotten into a fight with his parents and fled on a pontoon boat.

CO Diane Drogowski and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand arrested and lodged a subject for OWI (operating while intoxicated) in Grand Traverse County. The subject was observed operating in the wrong lane coming head on at the COs in their patrol vehicle. The COs contacted the driver, who was also talking on a cell phone, eating, and had an open beer. Computer records indicated that this was the subject's second offense for OWI.

DISTRICT 5

CO John Huspen reported two subjects who had used a gill net to take fish illegally from an inland lake were each fined \$850 and lost their fishing privileges for three years.

COs Mike Hearn, Mark Lutz, Chuck McPherson, Matt Liestenfeltz, John Huspen, Chris Bowen and Murray Cherry conducted a group patrol on Houghton Lake during the annual Bud Bash event along with MSP and Roscommon County Sheriff's Department personnel. The COs made a dozen arrests for marine safety violations, MIP, OUIL, and litter. Total arrests for the event were up from the previous year.

COs Bobbi Bashore and Rebecca Hopkins assisted in a search of the river for a person who had been floating on a tube and was overdue to return. The subject was last seen by his group the evening before the search. The subject was intoxicated and got stuck in a log jamb. He reportedly passed out at some point and was found walking out from the river the following day.

COs Mike Hearn, Mark Lutz, and Bobbi Bashore participated in patrol efforts during the annual Au Sable River Canoe Marathon. Officers assisted with crowd control at the bridge crossings and handled various other complaints associated with this event.

CO Brian Engelhard heard cries for help coming from a wooded area of state land where he was working. After a short hike down a two-track, he located a group of three adults, a couple of children, and several dogs who had become lost. Officer Engelhard was able to lead them out to family members who were looking for them.

COs Brian Engelhard and Warren MacNeill, while working marine patrol on Hubbard Lake, received information regarding a subject who had shot a duck. After the COs located the subject and obtained a confession, they confiscated the subject's firearm and a hen mallard. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Rebecca Hopkins and Bobbi Bashore assisted the U.S. Coast Guard with tubers who had been lost on the AuSable River

for several hours. The COs located the lost individuals on a remote road after their inner tubes had deflated and they started walking through the woods.

CO Tami Pullen responded to a complaint from Tawas Point State Park regarding disorderly subjects. CO Pullen located and ticketed four subjects who were intoxicated and causing problems in the campground.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a complaint of a subject who had shot a goose on the shore of a lake. CO Olsen obtained the dead goose and contacted the subject who admitted to shooting the goose because of the mess they make on his lawn. A check revealed the subject had previously been ticketed by Sgt. Gutierrez for the same violation. A ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 6

CO Holly Pennoni wrapped up a littering case that began last winter. An owner of an ORV left his machine in the water after breaking through the ice on Saginaw Bay back in February. The owner told CO Pennoni that he came back for the machine a day or two later but the ORV was gone. The subject never reported the machine as being in the water to anyone. The ORV was located early this summer after a boat struck it floating just below the surface. The subject was ticketed for littering.

While waiting for late evening walleye anglers to come into the launch, CO Jason Smith checked anglers who had several undersized walleye in their possession. Tickets for the violation were issued.

During the first full weekend of the Cheeseburger in Paradise festival in Caseville, CO Robert Hobkirk worked the Rush Lake State Game Area and encountered four different groups of ORVs

operating illegally. CO Hobkirk wrote tickets for operating in a closed area, allowing a minor to operate unsupervised, and operating without helmets.

COs Phil Hudson, Robert Hobkirk, Nick Atkin, and Sgt. Tony Soave attended the Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival held annually at the Bay City State Recreation Area. Great weather allowed another good turnout.

CO Scott Brown was called to assist the park rangers at Sleeper State Park. This resulted in the eviction of several campers who were loud and disturbing the other campers until 5:00 am.

CO Jay Person responded to a PWC accident on Sanford Lake. Father and son were traveling side by side when the 16 year old turned in front of his father. Unable to stop, the father struck his son in a t-bone fashion, knocking him off the machine. The son suffered serious injuries and was taken to Midland Hospital then transferred to St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw.

CO Vicki Goss contacted a boater operating a vessel with an individual riding on the bow when the boat was on plane and discovered the boat was over capacity. The operator was belligerent, had an open beer sitting on the dashboard, and smelled strongly of intoxicants. The CO administered field sobriety tests and the PBT, which indicated he was under the influence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson was watching an angler in a boat on Rainbow Lake. After watching the angler for awhile the CO counted 27 pan fish go into a cooler. The CO walked to the security guard booth at the boat launch so his truck would not be detected and continued surveillance from inside the booth. The CO counted another 18 fish going into the cooler. The CO did not have a boat with him but could not continue to let the resources be violated.

The CO asked the next angler who launched his boat if he would give him a ride out to check the angler. Contact was made and the angler was in possession of 91 pan fish. A ticket was issued for being 66 fish over his limit. Restitution alone for this violation at \$10 per fish will be \$660.

CO Dan Lee assisted the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) with investigations on the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. CO Lee, with the use of a shallow draft water craft, was able to access areas of the Refuge where subjects had disturbed nesting habitat, had started a fire which spread to several hundred acres, and entered the refuge by illegal entry points. The investigation continues.

While on marine patrol on the Saginaw River, CO Dan Lee heard a vessel approaching from downstream at a high rate of speed. By the time the CO had his radar gun on the vessel it was clocked at 70 mph. The operator was unable to slow the vessel speed in time for the slow, no-wake zone and was 300 yards into the zone before settling in the water. Upon contacting the operator, he was actually disappointed that he was clocked at only 70 mph. Subject was ticketed.

DISTRICT 7

District 7 COs conducted marine patrols during the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival and fireworks event. COs worked on Great Lakes boats and PWCs, ticketing numerous subjects for marine, fish and underage drinking violations. After the fireworks event, COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar, along with Sgt. John Jurcich, boarded a 50 foot wooden boat with more than 20 passengers. The vessel had no power, was found to be unregistered and in extremely unsafe condition. Most of the occupants were intoxicated and the vessel had to be towed to shore. COs stayed

busy handling complaints of lost persons, drinking and disorderly teens, as well as water traffic control and OWI arrests.

COs in Muskegon and Allegan counties worked in conjunction with area narcotics teams and the Air National Guard on illegal marijuana plantings on state owned lands in support of Operation Hemp. In three days, teams harvested over 1500 plants with over one third of the activity being on the Muskegon and Allegan State Game Areas.

CO Mike Mshar conducted a PWC patrol at Gun Lake where he ticketed a subject who was riding up to children at high speed and spraying them with the wake.

CO Mike Mshar contacted subjects riding horses illegally in the Allegan State Game Area and took enforcement action.

CO Patrick McManus contacted a “mudder truck” that had driven 20 miles unregistered and uninsured to ride illegally in the game area. The operator was ticketed for the violations and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

CO Chris Holmes ticketed three subjects for PFD violations, four for fishing without licenses, one for undersized bass and one for too many lines. CO Holmes contacted one subject on the Kalamazoo River who was in possession of ten undersized smallmouth bass and was in the process of writing the ticket when a file check revealed he was wanted on a warrant for domestic battery. The subject was taken into custody.

CO Chris Holmes, while ticketing a subject for fishing without a license, completed a file check that revealed he was wanted in Florida for armed robbery and aggravated assault. He was ticketed and taken into custody. In another incident, CO Holmes was detaining a subject on a fishing violation and it appeared the

individual was not providing proper identification. Further investigation found he had lied about his identity and was wanted on three aggravated assault warrants. The subject was ticketed and taken into custody on the warrants with an additional charge sought by for providing false information to a police officer.

CO Greg Patten was responding to a complaint on Wolf Lake when he checked a subject exiting the lake after fishing. The subject was found to be in possession of two undersized northern pike.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ivan Perez ticketed two subjects using cast nets on inland waters. One of the subjects was lodged in the Ottawa County Jail on outstanding arrest warrants.

CO Ken Cerny contacted two subjects fishing in a boat who were without licenses and had no PFDs on the vessel. Three other subjects who were with them were fishing and trespassing on the shore nearby. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Damon Owens assisted the Jackson Police Animal Control Division with a complaint of an alligator in captivity. The alligator was located and turned over to the city. CO Owens also seized two Canada geese that were held in captivity illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince contacted an angler with 34 bluegill over the legal limit. The angler was surprised to see a CO on that particular body of water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Black contacted a pontoon boat that had 16 people on board which was 9 people over the capacity limit. There were not

enough PFDs for all persons aboard and the vessel was not properly registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger was surprised to find that two anglers enrolled in a local bass tournament had not purchased fishing licenses, but not as surprised as the tournament organizers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger observed a personal watercraft operating 30 minutes after the close of legal hours jump the wakes of numerous other vessels. Upon contact with the young operator, it was discovered he had not obtained a safety certificate. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a marine patrol on a particular body of water, CO Ben Black observed two minors consuming alcoholic beverages, an angler smoking marijuana, and numerous subjects fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Ron Pinson was on a marine patrol on Lake St. Clair when he observed a vessel in distress. As he approached, he observed the operator in chest deep water attempting to keep his vintage vessel from sinking. CO Pinson collected the items from the vessel that were floating away and pulled the victim to safety. Another boat pulled up to assist and CO Pinson had the victim board that boat and head for the dock. CO Pinson secured the sinking vessel to his and pulled it to the dock and helped the victim load it onto the trailer.

During a multi-agency patrol, CO Danny Walzak and Sgt. Arthur Green issued a ticket to a PWC operator who had not taken the required boater safety course. While issuing a ticket for another violation, a distress call was heard reporting a boat that was on

fire. The boat had just left a gas dock approximately five miles away from the COs. The COs arrived on scene and found the boat was totally engulfed in flames and the occupants had been taken to safety by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. The Canadian Coast Guard arrived and started to spray water on the fire. A tow boat arrived on scene and assisted with putting the fire out. Just as the fire was extinguished, the boat sank in 16 feet of water.

CO Mark Ennett came across two brothers who were trespassing at a local popular fishing location. Each subject was fishing with three lines. CO Ennett checked for DNR priors and found this is the fourth time the subjects have been together and written tickets for the same violation. Their previous violations included hunting, fishing, and game area violations. Enforcement action was taken and license revocation will be sought.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint of subjects keeping undersized catfish. CO Szyska contacted a subject who had three undersized channel catfish. Enforcement action was taken.

While loading her boat onto a trailer at a public access site on a slow, no-wake lake, CO Linda Scheidler observed a subject load his family into their boat and take off at a high rate of speed. CO Scheidler contacted the operator and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a subject keeping a raccoon in captivity. The anonymous complainant was concerned for the children's' safety in the house. Enforcement action was taken and the raccoon was seized.

CO John Borkovich heard a loud explosion and observed a barn on fire. Before anyone else responded to the fire, CO Borkovich was able to get a horse out of the barn and two turkeys to safety.

He also moved two horse trailers and a horse drawn carriage away from the burning barn. Firefighters responded and complimented CO Borkovich for his quick thinking on getting the trailers out of the area so that the fire would not spread. The homeowner, who was also a firefighter, arrived and thanked CO Borkovich for his efforts.

CO Ken Kovach reports that a subject who had illegally taken a turkey earlier this year pled guilty and was sentenced and ordered to pay \$2000 restitution. The original complaint was of a subject hunting turkey over bait. CO Kovach, along with CO Ben Lasher, set up on the blind and illegal bait pile and observed the subject shoot a turkey.

While on marine patrol on Lake Erie, CO Danny Walzak and Metro Park Sgt. Jeff Brown responded to a report from dispatch that two people had fallen off their PWC and became separated from the vessel. Upon arrival to the area, the officers found the two subjects about a mile and a half off shore. A steady offshore wind of approximately 20 miles per hour and waves of two to three feet had carried the vessel 400 to 500 yards away from the operators. Both subjects were taken aboard CO Walzak's patrol vessel and transported to Sterling State Park. They were turned over to Frenchtown Fire and Rescue for evaluation. Later in the day, CO Walzak and Sgt. Brown were dispatched to a second call off of Sterling State Park. This call involved a wind surfer who was in the water and having trouble getting back on his board, again due to high winds and waves. The uninjured subject was located about a half mile off shore. CO Walzak and Sgt. Brown took him and his equipment aboard the patrol vessel to be transported back to the State Park.

DISTRICT 25

CFS Terry Short assisted local and Federal authorities with harbor security in the Marinette/Menominee area during the launching and sea trials of the U.S. Navy's newest destroyer.